



# **CITY COUNCIL**

## **CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WITH RISING OIL PRICES, NEW COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON ENERGY IS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SAVE ON UTILITY COSTS**

Tomorrow, the Honolulu City Council's newly-formed Energy Committee will meet for the first time at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room.

Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu), the Chair of the new Energy Committee, stated, "With oil prices reaching \$75/barrel, companies across America are looking for ways to reduce their utility costs. Our city government should be no different. This new Energy Committee will work to find creative ways to reduce the City's gasoline and power bills. We want to hear from the public if they have any thoughts or ideas on how we can creatively reduce our energy expenditures."

City Council Chairman Donovan Dela Cruz (Wahiawa, North Shore, Windward Oahu), who established the Energy Committee, commented, "Simple ideas that may only save the average consumer a few dollars, can yield thousands of dollars in savings to the taxpayers. The City Council is acting proactively by taking a comprehensive look at how our City government uses energy and how we can reduce our energy costs."

Some of the ideas the Energy Committee will examine tomorrow include asking for an energy audit by the City Auditor, establishing a limit on the City's annual energy usage and requiring the City to increase its waste to energy production. The committee also welcomes creative energy saving ideas from the public, such as using nitrogen gas for the inflation of tires in the City's police, fire, and garbage trucks to save on gasoline costs.

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